



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ESCONDIDO

November 17, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ at Gloria Dei,

The Lord be with you.

As you know, the State of California has concerns about the spread of Covid 19 in San Diego County. Because rates have increased, our county has been moved back into the Purple tier of health safety restrictions. This means that churches are supposed to have their services outdoors. Gloria Dei is implementing a plan to begin doing that.

Starting on Sunday, November 22, we will hold our Sunday morning service outdoors in the parking lot at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend! The service will be beautiful, Christ will be preached, and the Lord's Supper will be offered, just like when we are indoors. Bonnie will play the keyboard and we will all sing praises to Christ our Lord. There will be places to be in the sun to stay warm and places to be in the shade to stay cool and you won't have sunlight in your eyes while you worship. We are very blessed!

We also know, however, that being outdoors during the Wintertime might be difficult for some of our Gloria Dei family. We want to make sure that our whole church family still has the chance to have the Word of God and the Sacrament. If you feel like you cannot be outside for church during this time, please let Pastor Horn know. Arrangements can be made for you to have the Word and Sacrament.

Please reach out to Pastor by calling the church office at **(760) 743-2478** and leaving a message that you would find it difficult to be outdoors and you would like me to call you to discuss what could be done for you. You may also reach out to me by sending an email to office@gdlutheran.org. We will work together to make sure you are cared for and blessed in Christ. Please don't be shy. It will make things much easier during this busy season if you let me know what you need.

Dear friends, don't be afraid as we enter into this time. Think of Mary and Joseph. When the word came to them that they needed to journey to Bethlehem for the census (Luke 2), they must have felt overwhelmed and frustrated. Who would want to take such a journey when Mary was so close to giving birth?! They did what they had to do and went on their way. God watched over them, and Christ was born outside in the stable. The same Christ Jesus, who was there in the manger, is the same Christ Jesus who is with us now and will watch over us as we go outside during this time. We can trust Him; He is always faithful.

I look forward to worshipping with you outside, or to hearing from you if you need other options. God bless you and keep you!

In Christ,

Pastor Horn

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